



Pensions Committee

25 June 2021

10.00 a.m.

**MINUTES OF THE PENSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2021  
10.00 AM - 3.07 PM**

**Responsible Officer:** Sarah Townsend  
Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257721

**Present:**

Members of the Committee:

Councillors Thomas Biggins, Chris Mellings, Brian Williams and Michael Wood

Co-Opted Members (Voting):

Councillors Rae Evans

Co-Opted Members (Non-Voting):

Laura Hoskison and Byron Cooke(from 12.30pm)

**105 Apologies and Substitutions**

105.1 Apologies for absence were received from Malcolm Smith and Jean Smith

**106 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

106.1 There were no declarations made

**107 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

107.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 had been circulated.

**107.2 RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Pensions Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman

**108 Public Questions**

108.1 6 questions had been received from members of the public. The questions and responses were read out.

**109 Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for Shropshire County Pension Fund  
2020 - 21**

109.1 Members received the report of Grant Thornton which set out areas of the auditor's risk assessment and the responses received from the Council.

109.2 Members commented on the comprehensiveness of the report.

**109.3 RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**110 Pensions Administration Monitoring**

110.1 Members received the report of the Pensions Administration Manager which provided them with monitoring information on the performance of and issues affecting the pensions administration team.

110.2 The Pensions Administration Manager confirmed that the benchmarking exercise had shown that administration costs for members in Shropshire was below the national average.

110.3 The Pensions Administration Manager advised the Committee that the Fund was currently looking at its responsibility for cyber security in line with the Pensions Regulator guidance. And that work would continue to assess and update policies where necessary

110.4 The Pensions Administration Manager advised Members that the exit payment cap had now been revoked and work was ongoing to remove the processes the introduction of the cap had introduced.

110.5 Members welcomed the fact that more scheme members were using the online facility.

**110.6 RESOLVED:**

That Members accept the position as set out in the report.

**111 Corporate Governance Monitoring**

111.1 Members received the report of the Investment Officer which informed them of corporate governance and socially responsible investment issues arising in the quarter 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

111.2 The Head of Treasury & Pensions drew members attention to the work being carried out in response to the motion which had been passed by Shropshire Council and the timetable for future work in relation to this.

111.3 A Member asked whether it would be possible to bring forward a decision on divestment as part of the Investment Strategy. The Interim Director of Resources commented that the Investment Strategy covered the broad picture of how much to invest in different asset classes in order to manage the overall risk of the Fund. The high level decisions made on the Investment Strategy is a separate issue to the Fund divesting from fossil fuels which is being addressed separately as outlined in the timetable within the report.

**111.4 RESOLVED:**

That Members accept the position as set out in the report, Manager Voting Reports at appendix A (A1, A2 & A3) and BMO Global Asset Management Responsible Engagement Overlay Activity Report at Appendix B (B1 & B2).

**112 Investment Stewardship**

112.1 Members received a presentation from representatives of Legal and General which updated them on Investment Stewardship

**113 Investment Strategy Update**

113.1 Members received a presentation from Louis Paul Hill which updated them on the high level decisions to be made regarding the Investment Strategy review and the next steps to be undertaken following agreement to any changes made to the strategy.

**114 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**114.1 RESOLVED:**

That under paragraph 10.2 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules the proceedings of the Committee in relation to the following agenda items shall not be conducted in public on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the categories specified against them.

**115 Exempt Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Exempted by Category 3)**

115.1 The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 had been circulated.

**115.2 RESOLVED:**

That the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Pensions Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman

**116 Governance (Exempted by Category 3)**

116.1 Members received the exempt report of the Pensions Administration Manager which informed them of all governance issues affecting the Administration Team, including regulatory breaches arising in the quarter 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020, that have been recorded in the breaches log

**116.2 RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations as set out in the report be approved

**117 New Employers (Exempted by Category 3)**

117.1 Members received the exempt report of the Pensions Administration Manager which provided Members with details of two new employer admissions to the fund under Schedule 2 Part 3 Regulation 1(d) (i) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013

**117.2 RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**118 Funding Briefing (Exempted by Category 3)**

118.1 Members received a presentation from Ms Michelle Doman and Mr Mark Wilson from Mercer

**119 Investment Strategy (Exempted by Category 3)**

119.1 Members received a presentation from Louis Paul Hill

**120 Investment Monitoring - Quarter to 31 December 2020 (Exempted by Category 3)**

120.1 The Committee received the exempt report of the Head of Treasury and Pensions which provided Members with monitoring information on investment performance and managers for the quarter period to 31 December 2020 and reported on the technical meetings held with managers since the quarter end.

**120.2 RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations set out in the report be approved

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....